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Preface

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P R E F A C E

Oh, no! Another journal? When during the 1972-73 academic year, four hundred literary journals met their Waterloo? But an exciting scholarly development in literary criticism is occurring, called "Literary Onomastics."

Onomastics is the general area in which lexicographers, linguists, historians, geographers, philosophers, literary scholars, and others work on the study of names—their origin, etymology, meaning, diffusion, spelling, pronunciation, etc.

Literary onomastics is a more specialized area in which scholars are concerned with the significance of names in drama, poetry, and fiction, in any language. These include the names of places, characters, cosmic symbols, and so forth, as these relate to theme, structure, and other literary considerations.

The Conference on Literary Onomastics, held in Rochester, N.Y., on June 11th and 12th, 1973, was the first meeting in the United States and Europe entirely devoted to this subject.

The purposes of this annual Conference are to encourage further interest in this important and distinct branch of linguistic and literary scholarship, by bringing together specialists for a stimulating exchange of ideas and publishing their papers. The Conference has also initiated two related projects: (1) Studies in the typology of the subject and (2) Bibliographies of the enormous body of published work already existing, but diffused under the heading of onomastics in general.

I wish to express my deep gratitude, for their congenial and magnanimous support, to the following persons: Dr. Donald Orth, President of the American Name Society (1972); Dr. Martha Onan (Chairman, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures); Dr. John Atherton (Chairman, Department of English); Dr. Howard Kiefer (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities); Dr. Walter P. Bowman (Professor of English, Secretary of the 1973 Conference of Literary Onomastics); Miss Gladys Evans, Office of Continuing Education, and our typists --Consuelo and Marta Alvarez.

Grace Alvarez-Altman
Editor, Literary Onomastics Studies
Director, Conference on Literary Onomastics

E D I T O R I A L N O T E

We trust that these essays, presented in 1973 at the Brockport Conference on Literary Onomastics, will prove interesting and valuable to the reader.

We have had to meet unexpected due-dates, leaving all too little time for careful editing and retyping, and no time for final consultation with six of our contributors. But we have sometimes corrected slips in the manuscripts, hopefully doing no violence to their authors' ideas; and up to a point we have been able to standardize certain features of the volume, in order to avoid bizarre discrepancies.

We regret that the publication of one Conference paper, "Comparative Literary Onomastics of Contemporary Slavic Novels," by Dr. Anna Bojcun, will have to be deferred, as she is in Europe. We expect to publish it in Literary Onomastics Studies, Vol. II.

The two of us, as in the Conference of 1973, have worked amicably together through difficult tasks and decisions.

Professor Grace Alvarez-Altman
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
Editor

Professor Walter P. Bowman
Department of English
Associate Editor